



**National Park Service**  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

**U.S. Forest Service**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Sequoia National Forest  
Inyo National Forest



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## Interagency News Release / Fire Update

**For Immediate Release – October 23, 2003**

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### Paradise 2 Fire Now 90% Contained

In the last few days, fire activity has significantly decreased on the Paradise 2 Fire in Sequoia National Park. The fire is 1,186 acres and 90% contained. While all firelines are holding, the fire continues to move within the perimeter on the north and east sides.

Today, three Type I crews will continue to hold the fire, and helicopters will assist by dropping water along Paradise Creek, which is the eastern fireline. This fire is located in extremely rocky, steep terrain. Three injuries have occurred in the last month due to these hazardous conditions, poison oak, and bees.

Yesterday, just four miles from the Paradise 2 Fire in the nearest community, air monitors measured a 24-hour average particulate level (smoke level) well within both the state and federal standards. “We have spent nearly one month and \$1.3 million dollars suppressing this fire and I think that we are finally turning a corner,” says Jim Hall, California Department of Forestry (CDF) Battalion Chief who is serving as the Incident Commander for the interagency management team. “The fire has only grown 25 acres in the last 48 hours and smoke levels are down considerably from last weekend.” All fire managers on the Paradise 2 Fire appreciate the public’s patience while dealing with this difficult incident.

### Other Fire Updates

In addition to the suppression efforts on the Paradise 2 Fire, the following is an update for current wildland fire use projects. These are lightning-caused fires allowed to spread naturally to improve forest health by reducing ground fuels and maintaining a natural fire cycle. Trails remain closed in the areas of these fires to provide for public safety.

- **West Kern Fire (Sequoia National Park, Sequoia and Inyo National Forests)** – The main activity of this wildland fire use project continues on the Inyo National Forest. Fire behavior is expected to be limited. Currently, the size is 7,840 acres.
- **Giant Fire (Sequoia National Park)** – This fire is still smoldering in stumps and logs. Fire use monitors continue to watch over this fire use project. The Giant Fire remains at 275 acres and is not expected to increase.
- **Williams Fire (Kings Canyon National Park)** – Located near Comanche Meadow, this fire is 3,079 acres and continues to slowly creep to the west towards the Sequoia National Forest (more)

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- boundary. Since both agencies are working together, management of the fire will not change if /when the fire crosses the boundary.
- Out of the remaining ten wildland fire use projects within the parks, only the 22-acre Slide Bluffs Fire is showing activity. This fire is located in the middle fork canyon of the Kings River.
- **Albanita-Hooker Fire (Sequoia National Forest)** – Located approximately 8 miles northwest of Kennedy Meadows, this wildland fire use project is 2,772 acres. Sequoia National Forest fire managers continue to monitor fire movement to the north and south.

#### **NPS /USFS**